



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Caring today for a healthy tomorrow

Health Matters

South Clinic Opens Public Health, Dental Options



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Health Officer

Inside this issue:

Quest for National Accreditation	3
Out of the Darkness Walk	3
Shelter Receives \$20,000 for Investigations	4
Are You Prepared?	4
KCHD Performance Measures	5
Program Receives National Attention	6
Breastfeeding Law Passed	7

"There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still." The words of Franklin D. Roosevelt speak to progress. I am happy to announce that our community found a way forward in the struggle for dental health access for all. The need for accessible dental services for children and adults enrolled in Medicaid was loud and clear in the 2011 Community Health Needs Assessment. The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) and more than 80 partners including hospitals, health care providers, community aid foundations and advocacy groups in the area teamed up to ask residents about health care needs. The assessment team heard from more than 500 participants from all different ethnic, racial and economic backgrounds. "Ensuring access to dental care"

was the fifth highest ranked issue/concern out of the 44 priorities in the assessment. Over the past several years, KCHD has worked to find a way to make dental care accessible to all residents. The South Clinic is one way of moving forward, to meet the need for dental care.

The 2013 Michigan Oral Health Coalition's "Check Up on Oral Health" estimated that in 2010,

there were 10,167 visits to local emergency departments due to dental-related issues. The Kent County Oral Health Coalition's "2013 Kent County Oral Health Exam" says 26 percent of adults had not seen a dentist in the past year, and 65 percent of Kent County children with Medicaid insurance do not have a dental provider (a total of 22,300 children ages 10
(Continued on page 2)



MCDC's Dr. Tom Veryser and KCHD's Adam London cut the ribbon at South Clinic on August 28, 2014, as Kent County Deputy Administrator Wayman Britt, Commissioner Harold Mast, Michigan Department of Community Health Director James Haveman, County Board Chair Dan Koorndyk, Kentwood Mayor Stephen Kepley, and Commissioner Shana Shroll watch.



Kent County Health Department (WIC, Immunizations and other services) call 616.632.7200.

Dental patients call Michigan Community Dental Clinics at 877.313.6232 for an appointment.



South Clinic, *Continued*

and younger). The report also found the current supply of dentists that serve low income patients in Kent County is only 29 percent of what is needed for the community.

First Steps, a local early childhood organization, gathered a small group of concerned dentists, educators, and health care providers in 2011. This group formed The Kent County Oral Health Coalition, whose members are working to improve the oral health of Kent county citizens. One of their early acts was to support efforts by KCHD to improve access to care. Michigan Community Dental Clinics (MCDC), a not-for-profit organization that operates public dental clinics on behalf of local health departments, provided an answer. MCDC focuses on serving those enrolled in Medicaid and/or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

KCHD asked the philanthropic community for help, and over the course of two years, more than \$567,000 was raised. Working closely with the City of Kentwood, a deal was reached to purchase the former Kentwood Public Library at 4700 Kalamazoo Avenue SE. In this building, patients will be able to

access public health services (such as WIC and immunizations) and dental services, all under one roof. The dental clinic has 8 chairs with room to add 4 additional chairs in the future, based on demand. MCDC anticipates nearly 17,000 visits a year at this site.

The South Clinic merges the services provided at the former Wyoming and Kentwood clinics. This site is a larger property, less than half of a mile away from the current Kentwood Clinic and about four miles away from the Wyoming Clinic. Route Two of the Rapid will actually provide drop-off service at the door of South Clinic.

This South Clinic, *your* South Clinic, is a response to what the community told us they needed. From the data gathered in 2011, pointing to the issue of access to dental care as a concern for so many, to the stories heard time and again about children not being able to concentrate in school due to cavities and mouth pain, to some dental care providers sharing that they could not meet all of the need, this has been a true partnership of many like-minded, caring individuals coming together to support this cause. This effort would not have been possible without the support of the health care community, support of residents, support of the generous philanthropic community, and support of local leaders.



KCHD's South Clinic waiting room.



Announcement on National Accreditation Expected in September

On July 22 and 23, site visitors from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) came to the Kent County Health Department to review our documentation. This capped off more than two years of hard work by the entire KCHD staff. PHAB is *"a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of Tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments."*

After meeting with health department leadership, the visitors shared our strengths; while they were only required to provide three, they actually decided on four!

Collaborative Intent: Our community partners shared with the site visitors that they felt we were a 'neutral convener' – that KCHD is able to bring together entities with varying interests to sit

at the same table to find solutions to complex issues. KCHD staff is consistently looking for opportunities to collaborate with groups, agencies and other partners.

Commitment to Performance Management Systems: Staff shows a strong foundation to building Quality Improvement. This is a strong component of PHAB.

Staff are Committed to Assessment and Continued Improvement: KCHD staff look at indicators of health, review data, and look internally at how to best serve our community.

Recognizes the Importance of a Dedicated Communications Manager.

The PHAB group will vote September 16 and 17. Of course, we will keep you updated on how things are progressing.



Out of the Darkness Walk

Depression and suicide are public health issues that do not discriminate based on age, gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic status. Join us for the 11th Annual Out of the Darkness Walk at Millennium Park, on Saturday, September 27th, 2014.

The walk benefits the American Federation of Suicide Prevention. This pet-friendly event includes a 1 mile route and a three mile route. Consider joining the Healthy Kent team for this event.

Learn more at: <http://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=66211>

The **Healthy Michigan Plan** is a comprehensive and accessible health care program offered through the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Who is Eligible?

- ◇ Ages 19-64
- ◇ Income around \$16,000/single person \$33,000/family of four
- ◇ Not pregnant when applying for the plan
- ◇ Not currently enrolled in other Medicaid programs
- ◇ Not eligible for or enrolled in Medicare
- ◇ State of Michigan resident

Learn more at:

healthymichiganplan.org

855-789-5610



September is National Preparedness Month

If there was an emergency, would you know what to do? Would your children?

Planning for an emergency can give you some piece of mind when disaster strikes. You should have two places to meet after a disaster. One should be right outside your home,

in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.

The other should be outside your neighborhood, in case you can't return home or are asked to evacuate the area.

Share your plan with friends or relatives that live outside of the area where you live, as they

may be easier to contact, and can help get messages between family members. Discuss how to take care of your pets if there is a disaster. For more emergency preparedness advice, or to become a volunteer during disaster, go to www.BeMittenReady.com today.

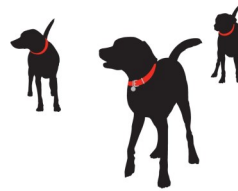


Don't shop... **ADOPT!**
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Bissell Pet Foundation Donation to Fund Abuse Investigations

The Bissell Pet Foundation awarded the Kent County Animal Shelter nearly \$20,000 to aid in animal abuse and neglect investigations. The money was a portion of the \$250,000 raised during the annual "Bissell Blocktail Party" in June. "We are fortunate to have the support of the Bissell Pet Foundation," said Carly Luttmann, Kent County Animal Shelter Supervisor. "We investigate dozens of cases of neglect and abuse every year. Having this funding will give us better tools to investigate and prosecute those who abuse animals in Kent County." Bissell Pet Foundation has provided funding in recent years for the shelter, lowering the cost for adoptions.



BISSELL PET FOUNDATION

Finding cancer early can save your life

Call about free Mammograms and Pap Tests. Help is waiting.



(616) 632 - 7283 KentWomensHealth.com

KCHD PERFORMANCE BRIEF

THIRD QUARTER, 2014

Focus on Administration

The focus of the July 2014 Performance Management (PM) Council meeting was on strategies led by the Administration Division at the Kent County Health Department. The strategies reviewed covered a series of topics including: Accreditation, Workforce Development, Communications, Staff Communication, Quality Improvement, IT, Cultural Competency, Assessment, Partner Engagement, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology, Obesity, and Violence.

Several Administration Division staff attended the meeting to provide verbal updates to the PM Council. Overall, the updates were positive and indicated that progress is being made toward the achievement of the numerous strategies assigned to Health Department Administration staff.

KCHD PM Council

The KCHD Performance Management (PM) Council was established in October 2013 and began reviewing performance data in January 2014. It is comprised of 10 members, including at least two representatives from each KCHD Division.

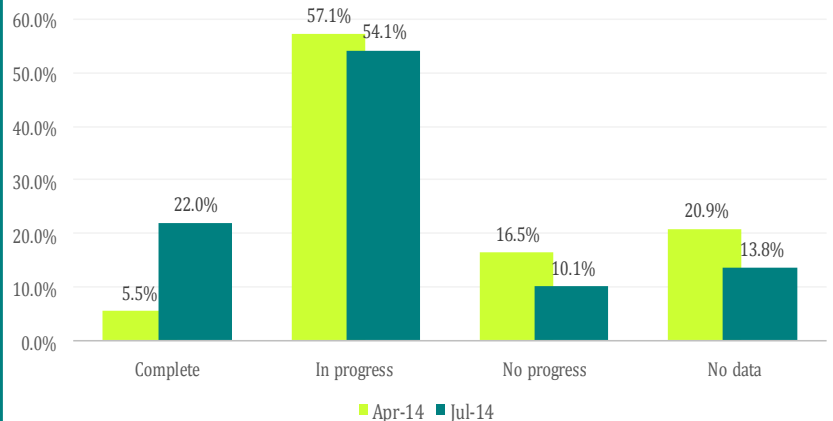
This group meets quarterly to review progress on 2013-2018 KCHD Strategic Plan goals, objectives, and strategies. In April 2014, one Division per quarter began providing a more in-depth review of progress by attending the PM Council meetings.

Key Administration Achievements

- ⇒ Significant progress made toward achieving both Public Health Accreditation Board and Project Public Health Ready accreditation.
- ⇒ Agency communications improved through development of Health Matters newsletter, and expanded attendance at weekly Leadership meetings.
- ⇒ Workforce Development Plan completed, Workforce Development Committee formed, and plan implementation underway.
- ⇒ Information Technology needs better supported through FY2014-15 budgeting process to improve access and support for staff.

The data provided in the chart below illustrates all KCHD performance data for the past two reporting quarters. There was a significant increase in the number of completed strategies between April and July. The percentage of strategies "in progress" stayed relatively stable, and we saw a decrease in the number of strategies reporting "no progress". There was also a decrease in the number of strategies classified as having "no data". The "no data" classification is given when a quarterly report is not submitted to the Quality and Performance Manager for a given strategic plan strategy.

Reported Strategy Implementation:
Progress Data (April - July 2014)



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“Model Practice” Awarded to KCHD

Expectant mothers have a variety of different experiences. Some women can follow all of the guidelines set by their health care provider, and still have complications. The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is tackling disparities in infant mortality through the Kent County Infant Health Initiative - Interconception Care (IC) Program. This summer, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) announced the IC Program is a “Model Practice.” Practices designated as a model are shared with other health departments, so others can benefit from them. Of 71 applications, only 22 were declared a “Model Practice” in 2014.



With the NACCHO award (left to right): Teresa Branson/Deputy Health Officer, Dianna Baker, Karyn Pelon, and Joann Hoganson of Community Wellness, and Adam London, Health Officer.

The IC Program is an enhanced case management program through the KCHD.

Women who live in Kent County, have experienced an adverse pregnancy outcome in the past year, and who are not currently pregnant can enroll in the program. The IC Program is evidence-based, designed to reach women as early as two weeks after the birth of one child, and before the conception of the next child. The interconception period is used to provide help and educate high-risk women who have had a previous pregnancy that ended in an adverse outcome.

Adverse pregnancy outcomes are defined as:

- Premature delivery (before 37 weeks gestation)
- Low birth-weight (under 2,500 gm or 5 lbs. 8 oz.)
- Infant death
- Fetal demise or stillbirth after 20 weeks gestation (in the fourth month of pregnancy)

Women enrolled in the program are carrying their babies more than five weeks longer and those babies are weighing about 2.5 pounds more at birth. The core components of interconception care consist of enhanced nurse case management, assessment of pre-pregnancy index risk factors, education and counseling related to risks, individualized reproductive life plans, comprehensive support services including access to dental services and family planning, referrals/follow-up, and tracking subsequent birth outcomes.

Back to School? VACCINATE!

Vaccine preventable diseases such as pertussis (whooping cough) and measles are commonly thought to be a thing of the past. Unfortunately this is not true, and the need to continue to immunize against these and many other diseases continues to persist. Today, safe and effective vaccines can protect against chicken pox, diphtheria, hepatitis A & B, human papillomavirus (HPV), influenza, and more. Protect your child on schedule.

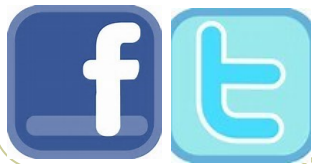
Visit us at:

www.accessKent.com/immunizations

Follow us:

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kentcountyhealth](https://facebook.com/kentcountyhealth)

twitter.com/kchd



Breastfeeding Law Signed this Summer

September is Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month

Sleep-related deaths are the third most common cause of death in infants in Michigan, behind prematurity and birth defects. About 150 babies die in Michigan each year due to unsafe sleeping environments, according to the Michigan Department of Human Services.

- Always place baby on his or her back during sleep time.
- Bumper pads should not be used in cribs.
- Always use a firm sleep surface. Car seats and other sitting devices are not recommended.
- The baby should sleep in the same room as the parents, but not in the same bed (room-sharing without bed-sharing).
- Keep soft objects or loose bedding out of the crib, such as pillows, blankets, and bumper pads.
- Wedges and positioners should not be used.
- Avoid covering the infant's head or overheating.

More information on safe sleep is available at:
[www.michigan.gov/
safesleep](http://www.michigan.gov/safesleep).

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signed the Breastfeeding Anti-Discrimination Act into law this summer. This act, supported by the Kent County Health Department and championed by Kent County Commissioners Carol Hennessey, Candace Chivis, and Shana Shroll, will ensure women's right to breastfeed their babies in public. The Kent County Health Department has numerous programs to educate and support families who breastfeed.

Earlier this year, the Kent County Community Health Advisory Committee (CHAC) voted to support the law. It prohibits businesses from telling mothers who are breastfeeding to stop or leave. Women asked to leave because they are breastfeeding can file a civil action against the business. A letter of

support was written by CHAC Chairperson, Commissioner Shana Shroll, and Kent County's Health Officer, Adam London. Kent County Commissioner Carol Hennessey also testified in support of the bill before committee in the Senate. Laws similar to the Breastfeeding Anti-Discrimination Act (Michigan Senate Bill 674) have been enacted in 45 states.

The Kent County Health Department supports all reasonable efforts to encourage breastfeeding, due its numerous health benefits for mother and child. "Breastfeeding offers benefits to the infant, helping build a strong immune system," says Adam London, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. "Our laws

should be encouraging mothers to breastfeed. This new law gives women protection from discrimination, and perhaps humiliation, when doing what is best for their babies."

KCHD encourages breastfeeding to clients of the federally-funded Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and has several peer counselors available to assist women with questions about breastfeeding.

Numerous KCHD employees are also involved in the Breastfeeding Coalition, made up of representatives from area community organizations and hospitals.



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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931.

The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter.

The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids.

www.accessKent.com/Health



Mission Statement:

To serve, protect and promote a healthy community for all.